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VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE PAPERS.

FROM ORIGINALS IN THE VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES.

CONTINUED.

S. MATHEWS MEMORIAL.*

To the Honorable the President & The Gentlemen of the Convention—

The memorial of Samp. Mathews ye acting partner of Messrs. Samp. & Geo. Mathews.

Humbly Sheweth

That by the Present apointment of Colo. Jno. Bowyer as paymaster to the Southern District, your memorialists are aprehensive of being laid seveal Diffikulties & disadvantages, & Beg Leave to observe to this Honourable house that Colo. Bowyer must have something very Intresting & extraordinary in view to Induce him to doe a service for the * * * at fifty pounds this is at Least worth five hundred, his motives we supose to be as follows (viz.)

he has two Brothers that have been in Trade here at present, about to wind up their Business the one at Staunton in Augusta County & the other at Fincastletown in the County

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*Sampson and George Matthews, of Augusta county, sons of John Matthews of the same county, who had served as an ensign of militia in the French and Indian wars, were long men of prominence in the western part of the colony. Sampson Matthews rose to be Colonel of Militia, and died in Staunton in 1807. George Matthews (1739-1812) served in the Revolution with much distinction, being Colonel of the 3d Virginia regiment at the close of the war. He was twice Governor of Georgia

John Bowyer was one of the first justices of Botetourt in 1770, and was Colonel of the Rockbridge County Militia in 1781, and commanded the troops of his county in lower Virginia during Arnold's invasion. See *Waddell's Annals of Augusta County*, 180, 309, 311.

of Botetourt, that the severall Claimants are largely Indebted to these two gentlemen & that by his apointment he will have it in his power to serve them in the collection on their sevrall Debts & further that there has been a desention between your memorialists & the S'd paymaster for some Time Past & that by his apointment he will have it in his power to wreek his spleen & of course to Disapoint us of Receiving sevrall just Debts that we are in advance to the sevrall people Imploy'd in the service under the command of Colo. Andrew Lewis altho' he nor any of his Brothers can have no pretentions to Reap any Benefitt on that acc't as they never contributed one mite Towards the forwarding or suplying the Expedition. we would also observe that we made our selves Liable for severall thousand pounds & advanced considerable sums of money to forward the service which we Humbly conceive could not have be done by any gentleman in our Quarter in so short a Time & To so much advantage. For the Prooff of which we Begg Leave to Referr this Honourable House to Colo. And'w Lewis & the gentlemen commissioners who setled the accompts.

Your memorilists Beg Leave further to observe that if by any Information or otherwise this honourable house have conceived that we have acted in such a manner as to Deserve a * * * the present appointment of Colo. Bowyer as paymaster we believe to be the most efectual means to chastize us. But if on the Contrary it should apear to this Honorable House that we have done our duty in Every Instance we hope that our case may be taken into consideration & grant us such Relieff as they in their wisdom may think meet & your memorialists & in duty Bound shall pray &c

SAMP. & GEO. MATHEWS.

N. B. the Reason that Induced us to offer to doe the above mentioned service for so small a sum (are) that our advance to the sevrall persons Imployed in the Expedition will oblige us to attend at all places apointed to pay off the sevrall Claim-

ants so that the paying off the money due on our Quarter would be very Little out of our way.

PETITION OF THE FINCASTLE COMMITTEE.*

To the honourable the President and Gentlemen of the Convention.

The Petition of the Committee of Fincastle County in behalf of themselves and the Inhabitants thereof.

In March last Lord Dunmore issued a Proclamation, for locating the vacant Lands in this County, which were afterwards to be put up at publick Auction, subject to an additional (quit) rent and other Innovations contrary to established usages, which we deem hard & burthensome.

It did not a little lessen our Apprehensions to observe in your Proceedings in Convention, about the same time, wherein it was recommended to the good People of this Colony not to purchase or be otherwise concerned in the sale or accepting any Grants under the said Proclamation: But sorry are we now to observe that the force of your salutary advice may not have its full intended.

Endorsement

Referred to R C. Nicholas, R. Bland, A. Cary, J. Mercer, T. Lewis, Jos. Jones, P. Carrington, Geo. Brooke, & J. Walker, Esq., to inquire into the Allegations thereof and report the same with their opinion thereon to the Convention.

WILLIAM PRESTON TO THE CONVENTION.

To the Honourable Mr. Chairman, and the Delegates from the several Counties and Borroughs in the Colony of Virginia and met in Convention.

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*On July 18, 1775, the petitions from the Fincastle Committee and from William Preston were laid before the Convention. On August 15 the Convention resolved that for the present no lands be granted under the late instructions of the Governor and no surveys made.

The Petition of William Preston, Surveyor of Fincastle County—

humbly sheweth

That some time early in April last your Pet'r received Instructions from Lord Dunmore to survey Lands in the inhabited parts of this Country agreeable to a Proclamation his Lordship had just them Isued and which was under Consideration of the Convention then sitting. And as there was nothing said, nor no Resolution entered into by the Convention relative to surveying those Lands, your Pet'r therefore apprehended that the same was tacitly allowed of to prevent Disputes amongst the first adventurers who might settle in that Country. But as his assistance were then going to the Ohio to finish the business they had left undone the preceeding year, they were supplyed with a copy of the Governor's Instruction, and had verbal Directions to survey a small District each untill it could be known what Report the Committee appointed by the Convention might make [on] this subject.

Notwithstanding your Pet'r hath on all occasions given the strongest assurances that he will not return a single survey under the affors'd Instructions without the approbation of the Honourable the House of Burgesses, or this Honourable Convention first had: and tho' by the last accounts rec'd from his assistants they had not surveyed any Lands under the s'd Instructions; yet he finds that many people are displeased with his conduct not knowing the motives from which he has acted.

Your Petitioner therefore Prays that this Honourable Convention would be pleased to take this matter once more under their serious Consideration, and that they will Condescend to give such order, or Directions therein as they in their Wisdom may think proper, to which their Pet'r will pay the most ready and cheerful observance, as nothing is further from his Heart, or Intention, than to give the smallest assistance to put any ministerial Instructions into Execution, that may appear to be contrary to the Ancient Charters, or the true and real Interest of his Country. let the Consequence be what it will

to his Family or private Emolument. And your Pet'r as in Duty Bound shall ever Pray &c.

DECLARATION OF IHABITANTS OF PRINCESS ANNE CO.*

We the Inhabitants of Princess Anne County being fully sensible of the error and guilt under which this Colony hath been misled under Colour of seeking redress of Grievances and that a set of factious men stiling themselves Committees and Congresses have violently and under various pretences usurped the Legislative and Executive power of Government and are thereby endeavoring to overturn our most happy Constitution and have incurred the guilt of actual Rebellion against our most Gracious Sovereign, We have therefore taken an oath abjuring their authority and solemmly promising in the presence of Almighty God we bear faith & true Allegiance to his sacred Majesty George 3d that we will to the utmost of our power and ability support, maintain & defend his Crown and Dignity against all traiterous attempts and Conspiracys whatsoever. And Whereas armed bodys of men are collected in various parts of this Colony without any legal authority We wish them to be informed that however unwilling we shall be to shed the blood of our Countrymen we must in discharge of our [duty] to God and the King & in support of the Constitution and Laws of our Country oppose their marching into this County where there coming can answer no good End, but on the contrary must expose us to the Ravages and horrows of a civil war & and for that purpose we are determined to take advantage of our happy situation and will defend the passes into our County and neighborhood to the last drop of our blood—

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* This paper, of course, eminated from those inhabitants of Princess Anne who had become supporters of Dunmore.

PETITION OF OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF AMELIA COUNTY.*

Prop's & Griev's, Amelia.

To the Honourable the President and Gentlemen of the Convention of Virginia.

The Petition of Sundray Persons; Officers and Soldiers of the Militia of the County of Amelia: Humbly Sheweth,

that there are at least Two Hundred and fifty Overseers, most of them strong, healthy able bodied men & many of them possessed of considerable property in Lands and Slaves, who by the Ordinance of the Honourable Convention, are exempt from mustering and consequently from being alotted in the Divisions of the Militia which have been formed and are in Readiness in case the Militia should be called into Duty. Now we Humbly Pray that the said men called Overseers many Be ordered, in case of an Invasion into some other service than that of Patrolling which we apprehend will be done but slightly if intirely trusted to them; and your Petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever pray for the Liberty and Property of America, for which we are Ready to venture our lives and all that is dear to us.

Vivion Brooking	Josiah Jackson
Philip Jones	Nathaniel Hobbs
Pleasant Roberts	William Harrison
Thomas G. Peachy	Zac. Hastings
Edward Munford	Solomon Coleman
John Wilson	Jno. Parkinson
Absolam Tucker	Godfrey Coleman
John Chappell	Lud. Williams
David Hawkins	Thomas Hood
John Boutton	Anderson Freeman
William Walthall	Abel Tucker

*This petition was presented to the Convention on June 4, 1776. Similar petitions were sent from Chesterfield, Lunenburg and Mecklenburg counties. The petitions were adjudged reasonable and by Chapter XII of the Ordinances of the Convention of 1776 it was ordered that all overseers should be enlisted in the militia.

Hez. Coleman
Daniel Coleman
Page Coleman
William Wilson
Robert Walthall
Jeremiah Tanner
John Coleman
Joseph Coleman
John Talley
Robert Tanner
Robert Powell
Soloman Clay
Joseph Bevell
James Southall
Thos. Huddleston
Geo. Worsham
Abraham Green
Joseph Crowder
Archer Jones
John Southall
Daniel Gill,
William Murray
George Ford
Abraham Powell
Isham Whett
Jeremiah Lester
Abel Burton
John Jones
Michael Waldrobe
William Booth
William Crawley, Jr.
Edmund Booker
Henry Anderson
William Giles
Christopher Ford
William Archer
Lawrence Wills
Godfrey Tucker
Martin Chandler
Clem't Dunavant
Samuell Morgan
William Mitchell
Thomas Davis, Sen'r.
Thomas Jordan
B— Crenshaw
Ward Ellington
Henry Beauford
Stephen Wilkinson
Josiah Beauford
Wm. Waller
Benj'n Fowley
John Mills, Jr.
Ben. Ward
John Hood
Sutton Haskins
Rich'd Allen
Burwell Coleman
John Spencer
Joel Tucker
Noel Perguson
Evans Mitchell
William Hood
John Pitchford
Obediah Spencer
Thomas Bevill
Peter Hudson
James Roach
Jos. White
Fred. Hood
Atha. Thomas
William Ellis
Jos. Holland
Wm. Lewis
Jos. Womack

Zachariah Compton
Abraham Green, Jr.
William Crawley, Jr.
Thomas Cousins
John Frips
Robert Cousins
Millington Roach
Frank Tucker
Thomas Williams
Matthew Tucker
John Cousins
Abraham Hood
Abraham Coleman
Robert Hood
John Dodson
Robert Bevill
Tucker Hood
Daniel Allen
William Cousins
Francis Stern
William Tucker
Tho. B. Munford
Rowlett Pride
Stephen Cocke
Peter Jones
John Booker, Jr.
John Beasley
Tom. B. Willson
William Finney
Peter Randolph
Alex. McNabb
William Gibbs
Asa Punnell
Daniel Wilson, Jr.
Henry Walthall
John Truly
Isaac Oliver
Hez. Davis
Ben. Wilkinson
Griffin Smith
Wm. Valentine
David Meriwother
Henry Jennings
William Smith
Rich'd Winn
William Howlett
Rowland Ward, Jr.
Mathew Fasley
Henry Dennis
Daniel Hardaway
Shadrack Tucker
William Gordan
William Drake
Charles Hood
Mark Judkins
Robert E. Brooken
Rice Newman
Solomon Hood
William Tally
Isaac Linch
Caleb Hart
Robert Sneed
Wm. Minor
Robert Bird
Samuell Jordan
Wm. Wood
Wm. Stewart
Wm. Crenshaw
Wm. Beauford
Charles Irby
John Night
Watson Green
Cornelius Crenshaw
John Dosweil

George Brooks
William Morgan
Miles Chappell
Boswell Jackson
John Clay, Jr.
Miles Bott
Field Mann
Samuell Mann
George Willson
William Bottom
Jesse Walton
William Thompson
Bowler Hall
Wm. C. Craddock
John Webster
James Johnson
Geo. Martin
Alexander Walker
Edmund D. Ford
John Gill
John ————
Fred. Reams
John Mann
William Webster
John Walthall
Stephen Hendrick
Thomas Dyan
George Booker, Jr.
Burton Hudson
Thomas T. Wills
Peter Webster
John Clement
John Tassan
John Farley
William Irby
Thomas East
Charles Mann
Rawley Carter
Wm. Jennings
Isaac Oliver
John Marshall
John Night
Stith Hardaway
John Hudson
Little Berry Royall
Jas. Motley, Jr.
Rowland Ward, Jr.
Wm. Fitz Gerrald
Freeman Epes
Wm. Doswell
John Mills, Jr.
Wm. Nance
Benj. Jones
Stedkep Thompson
James Crenshaw
Charles Bailey
Joel Hundley
Chris. Dawson
Peter Lampkin
John Pace
John Irbye
Thomas Come
Christopher Davis
James Colign
John Sharp
Jno. Winn, Jr.
Griffin Lampkin
Wm. Irbye
Giles Nance
David Thompson
Thomas Davis, Jr.
Anthony P. Walker
Barnard Duke
Henry Jennings

William Old	John Lockett
James Chappell	Samuell Bentley
Charles Booth	Samuell Pitchford
William Hankins	Isaac Coleman
Daniel Talley	Jesse Talley
Peter Busson	Tho. Ellis, Jr.
Joel Hill	Matthew Wallace
Jno. Dunavant	Adam Jones
Abr. Dunavant	Wm. Sneed
Matthew Gibbs	Thomas Ball
John Ward	Major Brumfield
Henry Foulkes	John Crute

PETITION OF HENRICO PARISH.*

To Colo. Richard Adams,
Williamsburg

To the Honourable the President and other the Gentlemen of the Convention now sitting.

The Memorial of the Vestry of the Parish of Henrico.

Humbly sheweth

That your Memorialists and their constituents are at a loss to know in what manner the Ministers salary ought to be Levied and collected the same being by an Act of Assembly passed in the year of his present Majestys Reign ordered to be paid in Tobacco if required by the Minister. And the Tobacco Laws being now expired your Memorialists Humbly prays this Honourable Body to take the same under their consideration, and give such directions as they in their wisdom shall think best. And your Memorialists will pray &c.

DANIEL PRICE &
NAT. WILKINSON,
Church Wardens.

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*Chapter VIII of the Ordinances of the Convention of 1776 established a mode of making tobacco payments by courts, vestries, &c., during the discontinuance of the inspection law.

PETITION OF JAMES FAZAKERLEY.

To the Honourable the Delegates of Virginia in Convention assembled,

The Petition of James Fazakerly

Sheweth:

That your petitioner is heartily disposed to comply with every measure that the good people of this colony think necessary for the security of their just rights and Privileges and is sorry he is under the necessity of making this application, arising from unforeseen and distressing accidents.

That your Petitioner is Master of the ship Hodge, and sailed from Liverpool on the tenth day of November last, many weeks before the Association or the measures of the Congress were known in England.

That he was particularly carefull lest he might give offence, and for that reason brought in no Goods whatever to be landed here except a few packages of Medicines for a person in this Colony; and did also take in a quantity of Salt sufficient for a winters ballast and no more.

That your Petitioner and the merchants of Liverpool are accustomed to look upon Salt as ballast, and had they known of the Association before your Petitioner sailed, they possibly might still have thought that the ballasting their ships as usual, with Salt for Virginia, would not be deemed contrary to the Association. That your Petitioner came with a firm assurance of being readily received in this Colony, having heard nothing of the proceedings of the Congress, nor taken on board any more than the customary ballast, and having no reason to expect a longer passage than usual at that season of the year, so that in case a non-importation agreement should be adopted by the Congress, your Petitioner had great reason to expect he should arrive within the time.

That unhappily for your Petitioner he met with very violent weather at sea that reduced him to great distress, and

after a tedious passage of more than twelve weeks, it was his misfortune to arrive but little better than a wrec & after the time limitted for importation by the Congress.

That your Petitioner gave immediate notice to the Committee of Norfolk Borough of his arrival, who were pleased after a full enquiry into the matter, to recommend your Petitioner's case to this Convention as worthy of interposition and relief. That your Petitioner humbly conceivs that he stands justified before this Convention and that this Convention alone has power to relieve him, agreeable to the directions of the Continental Congress empowering the Provincial Conventions to establish such further regulations and take such other measures as may be most conducive to the publick advantage at this uncommon crisis.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays the leave of this Convention either to sell the Salt above mentioned in the same manner and subject to the like regulations as if the same had arrived between the first of December and the first of February, or to dispose of so much as may be sufficient to discharge the necessary repairs and outfit of the said Ship, and to grant to your Petitioner such other and further relief as to the wisdom of this Convention shall seem meet.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray &c.

JAMES FAZAKERLY.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)